

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 31-34, 36-39 and 41-44 are now pending in the application, with Claims 31, 36 and 41 being independent. Claims 35, 40 and 45-48 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 31, 32, 36, 37, 41 and 42 have been amended herein.


Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 35, 40 and 45 recite allowable subject matter. In keeping with this indication, the subject matter of Claims 35, 40 and 45 has been incorporated into independent Claims 31, 36 and 41, respectively. Thus, Claims 31, 36 and 41, as well as Claims 32-34, 37-39 and 42-44, which depend from those claims, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 31-34, 36-39, 41-44 and 46-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 46-48 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The remaining rejected claims are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejection, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', is written over a horizontal line.

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